

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus for electronically delivering a document to a receiving system over a
2 network, comprising:
3 a server system connected to the network and storing digital information received over
4 the network; and
5 a sending system connected to the network and transmitting a notification to the receiving
6 system, the notification signifying that the sending system is transmitting the digital information
7 over the network to the server system and that the digital information may be accessible by the
8 receiving system at the server system.
- 9
10
11 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the server system receives the digital information from
12 the sending system.
- 13
14 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the server system is a first server system, and further
15 comprising:
16 a second server system in communication with the sending system and the first server
17 system, wherein the first server system receives the digital information from the sending system
18 via the second server system.
- 19
20 4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
21 a second server system in communication with the sending and receiving systems, and
22 wherein the sending system transmits the notification to the receiving system through the second
23 server system.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a storage device in communication with the server system; and
3 wherein the server system stores the digital information at an address location of the
4 storage device, and wherein the server system includes a page providing a path by which the
5 receiving system can access the digital information at that address location.

1/ 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the notification includes a resource locator.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the resource locator addresses the page on the server
2 system.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the page requests valid authentication information from
2 the receiving system before granting access to the digital information.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the page provides access to a graphical window
2 describing contents of the digital information.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the graphical window includes a resource locator
2 indirectly referencing the address location in the storage device where the digital information is
3 stored.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:
2 a data structure mapping identifiers to address locations in the storage device, and
3 wherein the resource locator includes an unique identifier corresponding to the digital
4 information, the resource locator referencing a second page on the server system that accesses the

5 data structure using the unique identifier to determine the address location of the digital
6 information.

1 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the server system is a group of server systems acting
2 logically as a single server system.

1 13. An electronic document delivery system, comprising:
a server system;
a sending system; and
a receiving system in communication with the server and the sending systems, and
5 wherein the sending system transmits digital information to the server system and a notification
6 to the receiving system, the notification signifying to the receiving system that the sending
7 system has transmitted the digital information to the server system; and wherein the receiving
8 system, in response to the notification, can access the server system to obtain the digital
9 information.

1 14. The system of claim 13 further comprising:
2 a second server system, in communication with the sending and the receiving systems,
3 receiving the notification from the sending system and forwarding the notification to the
4 receiving system.

1 15. The system of claim 13 wherein the server system is a first server system, and further
2 comprising:

3 a second server system, in communication with the sending and the first server systems,
4 receiving the digital information from the sending system and forwarding the digital information
5 to the first server system.

1 16. A method for delivering a document from a sending system to a receiving system over a
2 network, comprising the steps of:

3 transmitting digital information from the sending system to a server system over the
4 network;

5 storing the transmitted digital information at a storage device; and

6 transmitting a notification from the sending system to the receiving system signifying to
7 the receiving system that the sending system is transmitting the digital information to the server
8 system and that the digital information may be accessible to the receiving system.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of transmitting the digital
2 information from the server system to the receiving system in response to a request from the
3 receiving system to access the digital information.

1 18. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of confirming that the receiving
2 system has completely received the digital information.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of executing server-side software on
2 the server system through which the receiving system can obtain access to the digital
3 information.

1 20. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of maintaining a page on the server
2 system through which the receiving system can obtain access to the digital information.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the notification includes a resource locator for accessing
2 the page on the server system.

1 22. The method of claim 16 wherein the sending system concurrently transmits the
2 notification and digital information.

1 23. The method of claim 16 wherein the server system receives the digital information from
2 the sending system.

1 24. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving the notification at a second server system on the network; and
3 transmitting the notification from the second server system to the receiving system.

1 25. The method of claim 16 wherein the server system is a first server system and further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 receiving the digital information at a second server system; and
4 transmitting the digital information from the second server system to the first server
5 system.

1 26. The method of claim 16 wherein the server system is a first server system and further
2 comprising the steps of:

receiving the notification and the digital information at a second server system on the network;

transmitting the notification from the second server system to the receiving system.

and

transmitting the digital information from the second server system to the first server system.

Sub B1 27. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:
authenticating a user of the receiving system at the server system before granting access to the digital information by the user.

28. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of tracking the digital information in real-time through the network.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the step of tracking includes notifying the sending system when the receiving system starts using the digital information.

30. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of canceling delivery of the digital information by the sending system after the sending system transmits the digital information to the server system.

31. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of canceling delivery of the digital information at any time before the receiving system uses the digital information.

32. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

Sub B⁴

[illegible]